

U.S. Patent Appln. No. 10/562,503
Amendment
Reply to Final Office Action dated April 17, 2009

Docket No. 9526-74 (180862)

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and these remarks are in response to the Final Office Action dated April 17, 2009. This amendment is timely filed.

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-8 were pending, with claim 7 having been withdrawn from consideration in a previously filed Restriction Requirement. In the Office Action, claims 3-6 and 8 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and/or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 1 and 2 are allowed. Claims 3-8 are cancelled herein. Applicant is not conceding in this application that the cancelled claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent applications.

Applicant has made every effort to present claims which distinguish over the prior art, and it is thus believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. Nevertheless, Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted

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